



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.6920 | FAX (517) 373.2751

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/)

For Immediate Release  
August 22, 2005

Contact: Darin Ackerman  
517-373-6920

## **\*\*\* UPDATED RELEASE \*\*\***

### **Senate bidding task force report released by Sen. Kuipers**

**LANSING** – In an attempt to address problems that have plagued state land sales in Michigan, the Senate Task Force on Bidding Processes released its report that likely will lead to legislation to ensure taxpayers get their money's worth.

The report released today by the task force calls for standard contract language and better notification to the Legislature about land sales, announced Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, who chaired the task force.

“The task force was a good opportunity to review how the state sells excess land and ensure that the public gets the best value,” Kuipers said. “I expect legislation coming from this report to improve the land-sale process and to help avoid controversial land sales.”

The task force recommends that the state should use standardized conveyance and fee language when looking to get rid of surplus land. It also advises that the Department of Management and Budget or the Attorney General's Office analyze and make a recommendation before the Legislature authorizes the sale of land parcels.

Another recommendation from the task force is to create a single resource so potential buyers can access one source instead of tracking the individual state departments authorized to sell state land. Since the hearings, the state's official Web site now features a page on land sales, located at [www.michigan.gov/land-sales](http://www.michigan.gov/land-sales), to achieve the goal.

The five members of the bipartisan bidding-process task force were chosen by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema to review how the state sells surplus lands.

In selecting the task force, Sikkema cited the complications of bids for the Northville Psychiatric Hospital and the bid by Toyota for state land in Ypsilanti as reasons for the need of the taskforce.

The panel examined the processes of each department charged with selling surplus lands to determine if changes were necessary to ensure a fair and convenient process for people wanting to do business with the state.

The report can be viewed online at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop).

###